THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) BHEL has not provided land for any Housing Society at Delhi. However, employees of BHEL can form Housing Societies on their own. According to the conduct rules of BHEL, it is not mandatory on the part of its employees to seek permission from the management of BHEL for formation of any such Society. Therefore, the information sought for is not available.

(b) It is reported that CBI had filed an FIR in a case relating to the floating of such a Society and took three employees of BHEL into custody. In accordance with its conduct rules BHEL suspended these employees.

Foreign direct investment in Infrastructure Sector

*220. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total Foreign Direct Investment made in India during the last three years;

(b) the break-up FDI between greenfield investment (new plants) and mergers and acquisitions during the three years;

(c) the amount invested in the infrastructure sector during the same period;

(d) the percentage of this investment i.e. the investment made in the infrastructure sector to the total amount invested in India through FDI since 1990; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the percentage of investment earmarked for infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) During the last three years (january 1996 to October 1998) Rs. 38635.42 crore of foreign equity has been invested in India.

(b) Out of the toal investment of Rs. 38635.42 crore made during this period, Rs. 4881.70 crore have been towards mergers and acquisitions and balance of Rs. 33753.72 crore has gone into green field projects.

(c) During this period, Rs. 16962.78 crore has been invested in the infrastructure and infrastructure related projects such as steel, power, coal, crude-petroleum, petroleum refinery products, cement, telecom services, transportation services, financial services etc.

(d) during the post-reform period (August 1991 till October 1998) around 44 per cent of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has gone into the aforesaid sectors.

(e) Government have taken major policy initiatives to promote FDI in the core/ infrastructure sector.

* Coal & lignite and petroleum sectors have been de-licensed from the purview of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
* Foreign Equity upto 100% in the Power Sector for electric generation, transmission and distribution has been made eligible for automatic approval subject to a ceilling of Rs. 1500 crore.
* Plan outlay for infrastructure sector enhanced by 35%.
* Government has announced GMPCS Policy, which permits Foreign Direct Investment upto 49% for satellite based telecom services.
* Licensing period for mobile/cellular services has been extended from 10 years to 15 years.
* An attractive package of fiscal incentives has been put in place for oil exploration projects.
* The Central Government has extended counter guarantee for 3 new power projects.
* Power transmission as an independent activity has been permitted and infrastructure status has been granted to transmission.

* A Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been set up and States are expected to set up State level Commissions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assessment made by M/s. Merrill Lynch Regarding Export Growth

1551. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the assessment made by M/s. Merrill Lynch that there would be no export growth by India during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons given for the assessment;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the matter to find out why there was no export growth despite drastic fall in value of rupee; and

(d) the findings of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While no specific reasons have been given in the assessment, a slow down of western economy has been cited as a possible reasons for future weakening of exports;

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade, especially recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agriculture commodities and barriers faced in markets of European Union

Export of Fruits and Vegetable

1552. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different fruits and vegetables being exported;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to such exports the prices of fruits and vegetables have gone sky high in the country; and

(c) what stpes Government are taking to stop unlimited export of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The different fruits and vegetables exported from the country include onions, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, fresh mushrooms, peas, green chilly, apples, bananas, walnut kernals, fresh pineapple, guava, mangoes, fresh oranges, fresh grapes, grapefruit, papaya, custard apple, strawberries, cherries, pomegranates and chikoos.

(b) and (c) The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm income and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary to protect the domestic consumers and need to retain export markets. The total quantity of fruits and vegetables exported from the country accounts for merely around 1 percent of the total production in the country and is generally unlikely to have an adverse impact on the domestic prices. The Government has banned the export of onions with effect from 12.10.1998.

Steps to increase Exports of Agricultural and Industrial Produce

1553. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken/contemplated by Government to increase exports of our agricultural and industrial produce?